Volume 1,Issue 3

SUMMER 1999

THE NERT NEWS

TO DO THE MOST GOOD FOR THE MOST PEOPLE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE OREGON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHANGE IS A GOOD THING! RIGHT!

These last few months have been abnormally hectic for the Fire Department. One of the biggest changes has been the loss of Fire Chief Davis to the Gresham Fire Department. This has resulted in a couple of hat changes in the department such as my change to Interim Deputy Chief and Clark Poulton as Interim Chief.

Other changes include: signing of the contract with Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, remodeling of Station 204 being on schedule and the delivery of two new service vehicles.

My own philosophy for dealing with change is to look at the positives and take full advantage of them. One of the many positives that I have identified with Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue is their enthusiasm towards the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team program. They are preparing to launch pilot NERT programs in West Linn and Beaverton in the next year. They are taking a close look at our program in Oregon City to use as a model while developing the pilot programs in Beaverton and West Linn.

I am excited to have the vast resources of TVF & R available to make our

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Farewell To Chief Davis, Our Loss is Gresham's Gain

Farewell to Chief Davis !

Chief Davis had been with Oregon City only two and a half years. During this time he made many major contributions to the community. Among those accomplishments were the creation of the Strategic Plan for the Fire Department, the Hazard Mitigation Plan, increased involvement within the community and the contract with Tualatin Valley. Chief Davis really cares about this community, the safety of the fire personnel and the citizens who live here.

In his last memorandum to the City Manager and City Commissioners the Chief wrote," I strongly urge the City Commission to listen and give serious attention to the input of the Citizen Involvement Committee and continue to involve them as much as possible."

Chief Davis with newest family member at surprise farewell party.

In his absence, Chief Davis recommendation to the City Commission and Mayor Williams was to promote Deputy Chief Clark Poulton to Fire Chief and Captain Ken Dawson be promoted to Deputy Fire Chief. Congratulations to Chief Poulton and Deputy Chief Dawson!

We'll all miss Chief Davis and wish him the best of luck in his new position!

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NERT and HAM radio programs even stronger. They have many people experienced in exercise design, video production, information management and training facilities that will greatly improve our ability to provide a top quality NERT program.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many participants that were in the Earthquake Drill in Hillendale Park in April. I was impressed at the turnout, as well as the beautiful weather. Due to the interest, I am sure there will be many more exercises in the future.

If you have any ideas for training topics that you would like to see offered in the future, please give me a call at 657-1365. I will make every effort to provide a variety of refresher training in the upcoming year.

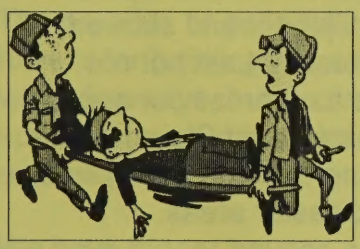
Interim Deputy Chief Ken Dawson

NERT STAGING AREAS AND CONTACTS

Neighborhood Association	Staging Area	Contact	Phone
Barclay Hills	Barclay Hills Park	Mathew Mattsson	655-6008
Gaffney Lane	Gaffney Lane School	Derrick Beneville	557-7535
Hillendale	Hillendale Park	Julie Hollister	656-3950
Tower Vista	Chapin Park	Dave Adelhardt	657-7708
South End	McLoughlin School	Ivan Brooks	650-9395
McLoughlin	Barclay Hills Park	Joan Harrington	657-3346

You will notice that we have a new staging area in Barclay Hills Park for the McLoughlin Neighborhood Association. We are encouraged to see new staging areas and welcome this spring's graduates of the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team members. **Welcome!**

Fall NERT and First Aid Classes



First Aid Class

There will be a First Aid class held on September 18, 1999. The classes are free to all NERT members and HAM radio operators. Please call for time and location.

NERT Class

The next Neighborhood Emergency Response Team training program will begin on October 15, 1999 at the Hilltop Fire Station #203. The NERT Student Manual is getting updated this summer and with luck, we can use it in our October class.

For Information contact:
Interim Deputy Fire Chief Ken Dawson at 657-1365.

New Equipment Update!

The new Pierce Fire Engine is stationed at Fire Station #203 and is fully equipped with radios and mobile data computer. It has been in service since the middle of March.

In June, Lt. Dean Schulze and Firefighter Kraig Moisan returned from Wisconsin with the new Quint aerial ladder truck. It will be in service sometime in October. The crews must first complete training on the device and install the equipment and hoses.

Stop by Fire Station #203 and have a look at the two new engines. They are truly awesome!

Earthquake Drill Held in Hillendale Neighborhood

On Saturday, April 24, 1999, the Oregon City NERT and HAM radio operators conducted their first emergency response drill. Oregon City Firefighters were asked to participate as observers. They would latter critique the teams responses to the disaster situations and injuries that were encountered.

There were several "injured" people placed at different locations on Clairmont Way, some were even wondering on the street. An incident Command Center was set up in Hillendale Park with Communications and a Triage area. Once the Command Center was set up, teams were established and sent out with their assignments. Teams then brought back the wounded to the Triage area and were sent out on additional assignments.

The NERT Advisory was responsible for the creation of the exercise. This was definitely a learning experience for them as well. They had to plan the different scenarios and types of injuries that would be encountered. New report forms were also tested during the drill.

There were approximately 50 members of the NERT and HAM Radio Operators including 10 "injured" volunteers. It was a wonderful learning experience for everyone who participated.

In the case of a real disaster, our teams would be the front line for our neighborhoods emergency response. The more we practice, the better we will become.

We would like to thank everyone who helped in the drill. We would especially like to thank the victims for their wonderful performances, our make-up expert for her wonderful talents, and the Oregon City Fire Fighters who donated their time to act as observers and critique the teams.

A special thank-you to Mayor Williams who helped the HAM radio operators set up their equipment and showed his support for our teams. Last but not least, we would like to express our appreciation to those residents on Clairmont Way that were willing to share their yards to provide us with disaster areas.

NERT Teams Have Identity

Several months ago, the NERT Advisory discussed the possibility of developing a logo. Several of us played with different idea using clip art, but to no avail. I approached a graphic designer in Oregon City with the possibility of putting together a design for us and explained our budget. Knowing him to be extremely busy, I didn't have much hope of seeing anything soon. Yet, several weeks later, he contacted me and said he had something for me to look at.

Bruce Hansen of Ramsden Graphic Designs produce these two logos. Both of which are quite excellent. Bruce also did the design for the Oregon City Fire Department.

We would like to thank Bruce for his wonderful generosity. Now we will have to decide how to use the logos, maybe hold a vote on the design choice. Any suggestions?

Thank-you so much Bruce Hanson !

UNUSUAL TIMES

Food for thought.

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints; we spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but more problems; We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.

We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; We've added years to life, not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor. We've conquered outer space, but not inner space;
We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; We've split the atom, but not our prejudice.

We have higher incomes, but lower morals; We've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

These are the times of tall men, and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships. These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare; more leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition. These are days of two incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but broken homes.

It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom; a time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to make a difference, or to just hit delete...

Author Unknown

Second Annual Teddy Bear Parade

On May 22, 1999, the Oregon City Fire Department participated in the Teddy Bear Parade. Scott Klemsen drove the 1923 Seagraves Fire Engine as the lead vehicle and carried the Grand Marshall and the Jr. Grand Marshall. Oak Grove and Tualatin Valley had several of their trucks participate in the parade. This year there were over 300 participants and 900 stuffed animals were collected.

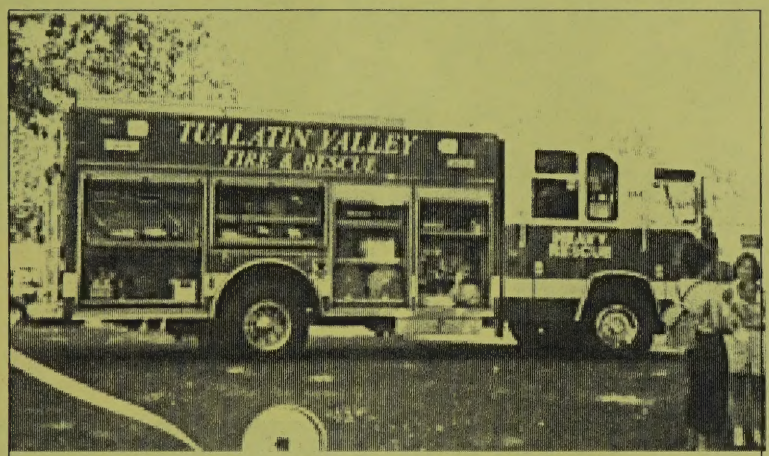
The HAM radio operators volunteered to provide communications for the Run Your Butts Off 10K Race and the Teddy Bear Parade and did an excellent job!

Many Thanks to all the volunteers from the Oregon City High School ROTC program, Explorer Scouts, Police reserves and off duty Police Officers and the Parade Coordinators. A special thanks to the one woman who came up with the concept a year ago, Rena Adamek. If it weren't for her organization and drive, the Teddy Bear Parade wouldn't have taken place!

Fire Chief Clark Poulton and his wife Carol, attended the ceremonies on May 27 to accept the stuffed animals for the Fire Department.

Perhaps next year the NERT teams can come up with a float for the parade. It is a really fun event and good for the whole community!

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Contract



Tualatin Valley Heavy Rescue Vehicle

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue is continuing to prepare the Oregon City Fire Department for the July 1, 1999 transition. The computers and software programs are being installed, new air packs have been ordered, uniforms purchased for the firefighters and all crews, as well as administration. In addition, extensive training and orientation programs are taking place.

Oregon City has already received benefits from this partnership. There was a second alarm structure fire at 15th and Washington Streets. The fire investigation team from Tualatin Valley and their chief officers assisted with this fire. This demonstrates just one of the numerous resources that will be contributed by Tualatin Valley when an event occurs.

Some citizens have already seen the benefits of this contract in the form of reduced insurance premiums. There will also be potential premium saving when the City is re-rated from a Class 4 to a Class 2. You may want to check with your insurance carrier, coverage varies from company to company.

At the Doernbecher Family Fair, on May 22, Tualatin Valley Firefighters put on an exhibition provided by their Combat Challenge competitors who placed tenth in the Nation. The competition consisted of stair climbing while carrying a 50 pound fire hose, victim carry, and several other exercises. All the exercises were conducted in full gear. Tualatin Valley also brought their heavy rescue vehicle and explained its many functions.

We are all extremely excited about all the changes that will be taking place on July 1, 1999 when the contract with Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue goes into effect.

Victim carry in full gear.

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City Emergency Management

The City of Oregon City's Emergency Management staff is preparing for a three-county disaster preparedness drill in preparation for Y2K. Interim Fire Chief Poulton and Interim Deputy Fire Chief Ken Dawson will be preparing for the drill to be held on September 8th. The Drill will also include the HAM operators and NERT team members. Sherry Arasim , Chief of Staff for TVF&R will assist with the program as well as other emergency management issues. A new part time Emergency Manager will also be involved in the September drill.

If you would like to be included in the drill please contact Interim Deputy Fire Chief Ken Dawson at 657-1365.

Y2K Task Force Meeting

Join the Y2K Task Force on July 12, 1999 at 6;30 PM. The meeting is held on the Clackamas Community College Student Center in room 127. Representatives from business, industry and government meet to discuss what is being done to prepare for Y2K and disaster preparedness in general. There will be a representative from the American Red Cross at our next meetings. Come and join us and share ideas and concerns.
For more information call Lynda Orzen, 518-3073, Mary Palmer at 657-0891 or Ken Dawson at 657-1365.